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Reasonable Cost Guidelines: Overview and Assumptions

(Revised 7/1/2019)

Effective for work performed on/after July 1, 1997 with updates in 2001, 2002, 2009, 2012, 2017 and 2019.

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1-1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In adopting these Reasonable Cost Guidelines (Guidelines), the intent of the Colorado Petroleum Storage Tank Committee (Committee) is to preserve the solvency of Colorado's Petroleum Storage Tank Fund (Fund) and to protect Colorado's environment and the health and safety of its citizens by encouraging prompt remediation of petroleum contamination in a technologically sound and cost-effective manner.

The Committee believes the Guidelines are warranted by the following assumptions:

- Petroleum Storage Tank Fund revenues will not increase beyond current levels produced by the maximum \$100 per tank truckload environmental surcharge
- Reimbursement applications will continue to be submitted at or above current levels
- Allowable cost categories will not change significantly

1-2. EFFECTIVEDATE

The Guidelines apply to all work performed on or after July 1, 2019. The Recognized Environmental Professional Program became effective January 1, 2018, and is incorporated into these Guidelines.

1-3. ADJUSTMENTS

Any change to Guidelines must be approved by the Committee. Any adjustment for inflation or deflation will be based on figures provided by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE).

The Committee may also adjust the Guidelines to preserve Fund solvency. Any such adjustment will be based on reimbursement projections provided by the Division of Oil and Public Safety (OPS.) Such adjustments will not apply to work already performed.

1-4. IMPACT ON REIMBURSEMENT

The reasonable rates established in the Guidelines are the maximum that will be recommended for reimbursement. Requests for reimbursement at rates at or below those established in the Guidelines shall be presumed to be reasonable, and therefore reimbursable unless otherwise disqualified. Requests for reimbursement at rates that exceed those established in the Guidelines shall be presumed to be unreasonable, and therefore subject to reduction to the rates in the Guidelines, unless the Fund Applicant has a reasonable explanation and requests an exception, and the technical reviewer agrees with the rationale and circumstances. The technical reviewer may use his/her best judgment in making the decision to approve or deny costs that exceed the guideline rates. In order for Applicants to have the opportunity to rebut a presumption of unreasonableness, the OPS shall advise an Applicant in writing of those costs identified as exceeding the Guidelines before presentation of the application to the Committee. Any costs that exceed a rate

established by the Guidelines and for which reimbursement is requested must be identified on the application. If necessary, the costs and the justification for the higher rate will be considered separately by the Committee.

Article 2

2-1. RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL

Recognized Environmental Professionals (REPs) replaced Individual Listed Consultants effective January 1, 2018. Prospective REPs need to have an approved application and pass a regulatory proficiency examination to become an REP.

The purpose of the REP designation is to better align decision-making responsibility between OPS, environmental consultants and responsible parties by identifying environmental consultants who can demonstrate decision-making experiences on releases to the environment.

Responsible parties of confirmed releases must retain a company employing one or more REPs in order to seek reimbursement at the Reasonable Cost Guideline Consultant Labor Rates. A REP within that company must be identified as the environmental professional of record associated with the confirmed release. The distinction is transferable.

2-2. RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL CRITERIA

A REP is an individual who by reason of education, training and experience is qualified to be the principal decision maker on work related to environmental assessment, risk characterization and remediation on OPS projects.

The REP of record will be responsible for:

- Signing submitted reports (i.e., characterization reports, corrective action reports and data evaluation monitoring reports) related to the assessment and remedial progress of the release conditions.
- Decision-making as it relates to assessment, cleanup, project progress toward regulatory endpoints, budget development and budget management.
- Communication of regulatory deadlines to both the responsible party and OPS should an issue be identified by the REP.

The five primary attributes that an individual must adequately demonstrate to be considered as a REP are:

- Appropriate educational background
- Professional ethics
- Decision-making experience
- Total professional experience
- Regulatory understanding

These attributes are evaluated through an application and examination.

2-3. EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

A Bachelor of Science degree or higher in the fields of engineering, industrial hygiene or biological, chemical, environmental or physical science is required. An alternate track of fifteen years of total professional experience and eight years of decision-making experience may also be considered in lieu of the standard track educational background.

2-4. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Professional judgement is expected to conform to technical standards. The <u>REP Code of Ethics</u> is provided in the Performance Expectations section of the REP webpage.

2-5. DECISION-MAKING EXPERIENCE

Applicants must clearly demonstrate that they were principal decision makers on specific technical projects involving site assessment, risk characterization and remediation. Applicants will need to demonstrate five years of decision-making experience for the standard track. Decision-making experience is defined as demonstrative of a concurrent combination of environmental decision-making experience and practical experience, both performed with proficiency.

2-6. TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Applicants will need to demonstrate eight years of total professional experience for the standard track. Total professional experience is defined as experience applying scientific or engineering principles in the environmental, scientific or engineering fields where the resultant conclusions form the basis for reports, studies and other similar documents.

2-7. REGULATORY UNDERSTANDING

Prospective REPs must pass an open-book, online regulatory examination based on OPS statutes, regulations, guidance, policies and forms. Applicants will be eligible to take the examination once their REP application has been approved. Approved Applicants will receive an email with a link to the online exam. When the approved applicant is signed up as a student for the exam, a link to the exam will be sent to their email address. For exam details, please refer to the <u>REP Exam</u> section on the REP webpage.

2-8. CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Recognized Environmental Professional (REP) continuing education requirement exists to enhance the technical skills and regulatory knowledge of REPs through education and training relevant to the investigation, assessment and remediation of environmental releases.

2-8-1. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND REP RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The first recertification period is January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020. To recertify, a REP must demonstrate completion of a minimum of 24 professional development hours (PDHs) during the recertification period. PDHs are defined as "hours of actual instruction obtained from OPS or external sources." No activity under ½-hour is reportable. PDH requirements are proportionally reduced by two PDHs per quarter for REPs entering the program in the middle of the recertification cycle.

Use the REP Recertification Form to document PDHs that you attain by completing OPS-developed and externally-provided training and email it to OPS at cdle_remediation@state.co.us by January 31, 2021, for the first recertification period, and every three years thereafter. OPS will notify REPs of their standing upon review of the recertification forms received.

Modifications to the continuing education requirement may be made for active duty in the armed forces of the United States and REPs experiencing physical disability, illness or other extenuating circumstances that affect their ability to complete the required PDHs.

Failure to comply with the continuing education requirements will jeopardize active REP status and could result in consequences including, but not limited to, the following:

- Additional continuing education requirements (the REP would be considered an active REP assuming completion of the continuing education requirements within a specified timeframe).
- Temporary inactive REP status (the REP would not be considered an active REP until the requirements are met).
- Expired REP status (the REP would need to reapply).

2-8-2. PDH RECORD KEEPING

REPs are responsible for maintaining records to support the completion of their PDHs. These records may include a logbook of:

- Activity
- Sponsoring organization
- Location
- Duration and date
- Instructor's / speaker's name
- PDHs earned

Examples of adequate records include:

- Attendance verification record in the form of completion certificates or email correspondence associated with an online course evaluation form.
- Course summaries.
- Conference agendas with details of the sessions attended.

While REPs must submit the <u>REP Recertification Form</u> to OPS by January 31, 2021, for the first recertification period, and every three-years thereafter, REPs should retain these additional records and make them available to OPS upon request.

2-8-3. OPS-DEVELOPED TRAINING

OPS will provide required courses and secondary training modules throughout the recertification period. Completion of OPS-developed secondary courses, roundtable discussions or training modules is not required, but will qualify for PDHs. OPS will solicit and welcome input on course content via the Remediation email address at cdle_remediation@state.co.us. OPS will offer workshop-style training classes in the OPS office.

2-8-4. TRAINING FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES

Externally-derived PDHs will make up the remaining continuing education requirements. External training should reflect the REP program's continuing education objective.

REPs can earn externally-derived PDHs through the following activities:

Activity	Associated # of
	PDHs
Completing in-person or online industry training courses,	1 PDH for each hour
seminars, workshops, conferences, conventions and webinars	of attendance
Actively participating in technical or professional societies	2 PDHs per
	organization per year
Teaching a course for the first time or teaching a course	2 PDHs for each hour
previously taught if substantial time was spent updating material	of instruction
Completing accredited college courses with a passing grade of a	3 PDHs for each
"C" or better	credit hour earned
Publishing professional papers	4 PDHs for each
	published paper

The REP Continuing Education website provides a partial list of <u>external training sources</u> that provide classroom and web-based modules that contain qualified continuing education training.

OPS has final authority with respect to approval of courses and associated PDHs.

Some activities do not qualify, such as OSHA Hazwoper Training and training that does not meet the stated objective of enhancing the REP's skills in investigation, assessment and remediation of environmental releases.

2-9. PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

The REP criteria and approval process identifies environmental practitioners with demonstrated decision-making experience performed with ethical integrity. Individuals with active REP status are expected to continually demonstrate these attributes.

OPS is committed to supporting REPs through continuing education; however, REPs not meeting expectations will be subject to corrective action considerations.

2-9-1. CODE OF ETHICS

• REP Code of Ethics (pdf)

2-9-2. EXPECTATIONS

REP status can be jeopardized if the REP:

- Violates the code of ethics.
- Is convicted, enters into a plea agreement, or enters a plea of nolo contendere to any crime involving a violation of Colorado or federal environmental laws and regulations.
- Knowingly provides false information on any documents submitted to OPS.
- Violates any provision on the REP applications.
- Fails to abide by Colorado or federal statutes, ordinances or regulations pertaining to assessing and remediating petroleum contamination in air, soil, surface water or groundwater.
- Repeatedly fails to abide by Colorado guidance, standards, practices, policies and other requirements pertaining to assessing and remediating petroleum contamination in air, soil, surface water or groundwater.

2-9-3. REVIEW PROCESS

The following review process has been identified for REPs who are not meeting the expectations identified above:

- OPS is made aware of a REP's alleged failure to meet expectations. If the alleged failure to meet expectations is deemed actionable by OPS, the REP is notified and provided an opportunity to respond. The review process may end here if appropriate.
- The alleged failure to meet expectations is reviewed by the REP Peer Group (consisting solely of external REPs). The REP Peer Group will consider the information provided, gather more information as necessary and make a recommendation to the OPS Director. The REP Peer Group's recommendation will be documented.
- The OPS Director will consider the recommendation of the REP Peer Group and make a final determination. The OPS Director's determination will document the facts of the matter and the rationale behind the decision.

Outcomes may range from no action taken to permanent revocation.

2-10. RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION PACKAGE

The following instructions and forms associated with the REP application process may be obtained from the REP Application webpage.

- Recognized Environmental Professional Application Instructions (pdf)
- Recognized Environmental Professional Application (pdf)
- Recognized Environmental Professional Decision-Making Experience Form (pdf)
- Recognized Environmental Professional Project Description Form (pdf)
- Recognized Environmental Professional Total Professional Experience Form (pdf)
- Recognized Environmental Professional Reference Form (pdf)

3-1-1. INVOICES REQUIRED

A primary invoice is required to support any amount claimed for reimbursement.

3-1-2. SUBCONTRACTOR INVOICES

A subcontractor invoice is required to support any primary invoice line item of \$1,000 or more. Subcontractor invoices for line items under \$1,000 may be required at any time during the reimbursement application review, or up to three years after reimbursement is issued, at the discretion of OPS or the Committee.

3-1-3. LABORATORY INVOICES

A laboratory invoice is always required, regardless of the dollar amount.

3-1-4. TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE MANIFESTS

Transportation and waste manifests are always required.

3-1-5. MISCELLANEOUS

Lodging and utility invoices are always required, regardless of the dollar amount.

Article 3, Part 2

3-2-1. STANDARD INFORMATION REQUIRED

Each invoice should include the following information, at a minimum

- a) Consultant/Subcontractor name and REP number
- b) Client's (Fund applicant's) name and address
- c) Site (facility name and address)
- d) OPS Event ID number
- e) Beginning and ending dates of work covered by the invoice
- f) Invoice number and date
- g) Invoice page number

- h) Consultant/Subcontractor job number, if applicable
- i) Phase of work code (PWC), activity code (AC) and task and labor code (TLC). This coding is located in the Reasonable Cost Guideline tables.

Note: The OPS Invoice Format is no longer required for invoices with applications submitted after January 1, 2018.

Article 4, Part 1

4-1-1. DIRECT PUSH MINIMUM REIMBURSEMENT PER DAY

There is a minimum reimbursement that includes the daily rate plus mileage.

These rates include mobilization, demobilization, rig up, rig down, decontamination, and all non-consultant labor.

4-1-2. INSTALL TEMPORARY WELL IN DIRECT PUSH BORING - Discontinued

OPS will longer accept temporary (i.e. in place <1 year) wells. However, grab groundwater samples from a boring may at times be advantageous, and geologic conditions may necessitate temporary casing if the borehole won't remain open. Discuss the situation with your technical reviewer.

4-1-3. INSTALL PERMANENT WELL IN DIRECT PUSH BORING

The rate per foot includes all materials except locks and permits. Locks and permits should be billed separately at cost plus applicable markup.

Permanent well means: 2" inside diameter casing, pre-slotted screen, adequate filter pack, bentonite/grout seal, locking cap, street box with traffic-rated cover.

4-1-3. WELL ABANDONMENT (closure)

The rate per well includes materials and labor.

4-1-49. CONSULTANT LABOR AND FIELD INSTRUMENTATION

Consultant on-site labor allowable for the duration of the direct push boring time, plus two hours. Field instruments such as photo-ionization detectors (PIDs) may be billed separately.

4-1-50. MISCELLANEOUS FIELD SUPPLIES

The daily rate per site includes such items as gloves, baggies, ice, water, rope, pens, etc. No receipts are required.

4-2-1. DRILLING RATES PER FOOT

The rates per foot include all materials, equipment, and non-consultant labor necessary to drill a boring for either a 2" or 4" diameter well. Drilling rates for direct-push drilling include continuous soil sampling. Drilling rates for hollow-stem augers include collecting split-spoon samples in liners at 5' intervals. All rates include decontamination, and backfilling of borings with bentonite grout when not converted to a well. The rates do not include miscellaneous small items (see Miscellaneous Field Supplies).

Soil borings and monitoring wells in source areas should be continuously sampled when technically feasible. Employing 5-foot soil sample intervals is discouraged when defining the extent and distribution of contamination in source areas because it will create data gaps by design. The success of a corrective action plan is dependent on an effective site characterization, which includes delineating source areas, characterizing heterogeneity (high flux vs. mass storage zones), and identifying targeted treatment areas requiring remediation. Costs for continuous soil sampling should be identified in TLC 2.99.

4-2-2. MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION

The rate is per mile.

4-2-3. SOIL SAMPLING (split spoon) – Discontinued

4-2-4. COMPLETION OF BOREHOLE AS MONITORING WELL

The rate per foot for 2" wells and 4" wells include all associated labor and materials.

4-2-5. WELL ABANDONMENT (closure)

The rate per foot for 2" wells and 4" wells include all associated labor and materials.

4-2-48. MARKUP

No markup is permitted if the consultant does their own drilling, using their own equipment and labor.

4-2-49. CONSULTANT LABOR AND FIELD INSTRUMENTATION

Consultant on-site labor allowable for the duration of the drilling time, plus two hours. Field instruments such as photo-ionization detectors (PIDs) may be billed separately.

4-2-50, MISCELLANEOUS FIELD SUPPLIES

The per day per site rate includes such items as gloves, baggies, ice, water, rope, pens, etc. No receipts are required.

4-3-1. RATES FOR ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXCAVATION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF PETROLEUM-CONTAMINATED SOILS

For activities associated with excavation, transportation and disposal of petroleum-contaminated soils in excess of \$50,000, three competitive bids are required. If three bids are obtained, markup of 15% will be allowed. If two bids are obtained, markup will be limited to 8%, and if only one bid is obtained, no markup will be allowed.

All bids must be based on a bid specification sheet provided to all solicited contractors to ensure consistency during bid evaluation and selection. Submit the bid specification sheet to OPS with the Corrective Action Plan. In addition, requirements should include technical competence, safety training, insurance, and proven performance.

If it is demonstrated that there is only one local contractor within 60 miles, one bid will be allowed to obtain the full 15% markup. Documentation of limited contractors within 60 miles will be required.

For jobs under \$50,000, RCGs will apply with the exception that disposal of contaminated soil and backfill and compaction (purchase, transportation and compact imported material) is at cost plus markup.

The rates for the following activities are either per cubic yard or per square foot:

- Excavation and loading
- Transportation of contaminated soil
- Disposal of contaminated soil
- Backfill and compaction (purchase, transport, compact backfill material)
- Backfill and compaction (clean excavated material)
- Remove and dispose of asphalt or concrete
- Replace asphalt
- Replace concrete

Traffic control and permits are at actual cost.

Up to 250 cubic yards of soil can be removed from the site, disposed of, and clean fill imported and compacted, without pre-approval during tank removal.

4-3-2. MILEAGE

Rate per mile per cubic yard for each mile over 40 miles from excavation site to disposal site, not to exceed 200 miles total one-way.

4-3-3. LABORATORY ANALYSIS – Discontinued (OPS no longer requires a soil waste sample per 100 cubic yards to document contamination)

4-3-4. MANIFESTS

All transportation and waste manifests are required.

4-3-5. APPLICANT-PERFORMED WORK

Fund Applicants who perform their own work are entitled to reimbursement on labor up to the TLC 5.5 rate.

4-3-48. MARKUP

Consultants may mark up pass-through (subcontracted) charges, subject to any limitations established by these reasonable cost guidelines. Applicants who perform their own work may not mark up any costs.

4-3-49. CONSULTANT LABOR AND FIELD INSTRUMENTATION

Consultant onsite labor allowable for the duration of the excavation, plus two hours. Field instruments such as photo-ionization detectors (PIDs) may be billed separately.

4-3-50. MISCELLANEOUS FIELD SUPPLIES

The per day per site rate includes such items as gloves, baggies, ice, water, rope, pens, etc. No receipts are required.

Article 4, Part 4

4-4-1. RATE PER WELL SAMPLED

The rate per well includes all labor and materials (bailer, non-disposable bailer, water-level indicator). It does not include analytical testing or disposal of purge water.

4-4-49. CONSULTANT LABOR AND FIELD INSTRUMENTATION

No additional onsite consultant labor will be reimbursed. Field instruments may be billed separately.

4-4-50. MISCELLANEOUS FIELD SUPPLIES

The per day per site rate includes such items as gloves, baggies, ice, water, rope, pens, etc. No receipts are required.

Article 4, Part 5-1

4-5-1-1. RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL RATES

The rates apply to environmental consultants whose work is overseen by a Recognized Environmental Professional (REP). Reimbursement will be according to task performed (see "Responsibilities and Duties" in § 4-5-3), not job title of the person performing it. A REP designation is required for any company billing labor above the staff engineer/scientist rate. Refer to the Recognized Environmental Professional portion of the Guidelines (Article 2) for more information.

Or, for Applicants who are represented by a Recognized Environmental Professional (REP) who act as the sole environmental consultant/primary contractor for the remediation project, reimbursement will be at rates according to task performed (see "Responsibilities and Duties" in § 4-5-3), not job title of the person performing it. Representation by a REP is required for any labor billed above the staff engineer/scientist rate. Refer to the Recognized Environmental Professional portion of the Guidelines (Article 2) for more information.

Total hours in the top three categories (Principal, Recognized Environmental Professional, and Project Manager) cannot exceed 20% of consultant's total project labor hours.

4-5-1-2. COMPLEX SITE

A complex site is one with extensive groundwater and soil contamination, difficult hydrogeology, multiple contaminants, or above ground complications.

4-5-1-3. CONSULTANT LABOR

There are separate labor rates for events represented by a Recognized Environmental Professional (REP) versus events not represented by an REP, the represented rate being higher. Pursuant to § 12-25-105 CRS, some of the responsibilities and duties may require either licensure as a professional engineer or the proper level of supervision from a professional engineer. It is the responsibility of the consultant to comply with state law on this issue.

Article 4, Part 5-2

4-5-2. APPLICANT'S LABOR RATES

The rates are lower for Applicants not represented by Recognized Environmental Professionals (REP). Reimbursement will be according to task performed (see "Responsibilities and Duties" in § 4-5-3), not job title of the person performing it. Reimbursement will be the LOWER of:

(1) The maximum rate, or (2) 135% of the employee's ACTUAL wage.

Article 4, Part 5-3

4-5-3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE VARIOUS POSITIONS

Pursuant to § 12-25-105 CRS, some of the following responsibilities and duties may require either licensure as a professional engineer or the proper level of supervision from a professional engineer. It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with state law on this issue.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES and DUTIES:

PRINCIPAL

• Project-related contract review and approval

RECOGNIZED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL

- Final review for all characterization, corrective action reports
- Periodic data evaluation of reports & reimbursement applications
- Decision-making related to assessment, cleanup, project progress towards regulatory endpoints, budget development and budget management
- Represent client in dealings with governmental or regulatory agencies
- QA/QC of reports

SENIOR ENGINEER/SCIENTIST

- Complex site characterizations
- Aquifer characterizations (complex sites)
- Review complex technical reports
- Review complex corrective action plans

PROJECT MANAGER

- Review and approve reports and field data
- Review and approve work plan
- Approve onsite activities
- Perform periodic site inspections
- Prepare proposals
- Manage subcontractors
- Represent client in dealings with governmental / regulatory agencies

PROJECT ENGINEER/SCIENTIST

- Remediation feasibility studies and pilot testing
- Engineering/remedial equipment design
- Aquifer characterization
- Prepare final technical reports
- Prepare corrective action plans
- Data review and analysis
- Prepare work plan
- Site inspection

STAFF ENGINEER/SCIENTIST

- Supervise onsite activities
- Field workpreparation/planning
- Oversee outside contractors
- Site reconnaissance and mapping
- Permitting
- Onsite assessment activities
- Obtain off-site access permission

- Prepare draft reports
- Health and safety coordination and monitoring
- Develop site safety plan

SENIOR TECHNICIAN

- Operate and maintain remedial equipment
- Operate field and monitoring equipment
- Well developing and sampling

COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN

- Drafting
- CAD work
- Cartography

STAFF TECHNICIAN

- Waste handling
- Decontamination
- Free product removal
- Maintain field-monitoring equipment
- Assist senior technician

CLERICAL/COURIER

- Project-related wordprocessing and report assembly
- Project-related filing and mailing
- Travel to deliver or pick up job-related samples, supplies, etc.

Article 4, Part 6

4-6-1. LABORATORY ANALYSIS

The rates the Fund will reimburse for actual laboratory charges include all supplies, sample handling, and disposal fees.

4-6-2. INVOICES

Invoices for laboratory analysis are required, regardless of the invoice amount.

4-6-3. RUSH CHARGES

Rush charges up to an additional 100% of a laboratory analysis rate that does not exceed these Guidelines will be reimbursed if justified economically by reducing overall remediation costs or if incurred because of emergency health or environmental issues. "Rush" means performing the analysis by the next laboratory working day.

4-6-4. INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY TESTS – Discontinued (Refer to OPS Guidance and the CAP/EFS)

4-6-5 **MARKUP**

The consultant may mark up laboratory rates if the laboratory analysis is performed by a laboratory that is not owned by nor affiliated with the consultant.

4-7-1. OFFSITE ACCESS

Maximum hours: Actual, not to exceed 8 hours per project for off-site access of up to three properties. Any additional hours should be clearly identified.

4-7-2. WELL DEVELOPMENT

Maximum hours: Actual, not to exceed 1.5 hours per well. Any additional hours should be clearly identified.

4-7-3. UTILITY LOCATE

Maximum hours: Actual, not to exceed 8 hours per site. Any additional hours should be clearly identified.

4-7-4. POTHOLING

- The potholing RCG (Task and Labor Code [TLC] 8.14) will include subcontractor costs for labor and equipment for surface coring and potholing.
- Potholing mileage (TLC 8.15) to and from a job site will be reimbursed.
- For cost estimation purposes OPS will continue to allow for up to one hour per potholed location unless it can be demonstrated through site specific information that more effort is required. Potholing must be billed on an actual level of effort basis and will be reimbursed accordingly.
- Oversight of potholing will be allowed at up to one hour per hole at a staff engineer's rate (TLC 5.5). It is expected that potholing activities will be completed in conjunction with other drilling activities and therefore drive time and mobilization time should already be accounted for.
- OPS will not reimburse for temporary backfill or temporary protective cover of potholed locations.
- Collected soil samples must be representative and undisturbed, therefore potholing will not be allowed as an accepted method of collecting soil samples.
- OPS may require multiple bids for potholing efforts that exceed two days' time
 onsite (16 hours). This requirement may pertain to remedial system installation,
 in-situ injection programs, and site assessments that require extensive soil, vapor
 and groundwater characterization efforts and should be a part of a bid package for
 such activities.

Article 4, Part 8

4-8 FUND REIMBURSEMENT FOR RENTAL VSPURCHASE

The Fund will reimburse the lower of the cost to rent or purchase remediation equipment. In most instances, the burden will be on the Fund Applicant to prove that purchase was more economically feasible than leasing or renting the equipment, or to prove that it was not possible to rent/lease the equipment, such that purchase was the only option. If the prime contractor or consultant leases its own equipment to the Applicant, no operation and maintenance costs will be reimbursed.

4-9-1. AIRLINE TRAVEL

Airline travel will be reimbursed only to the extent it does not exceed the per mile rate.

4-9-2. LODGING

The Fund will reimburse lodging at a rate that is actual and reasonable for the area. A receipt is required. Lodging will not be reimbursed unless the job site is at least 50 miles from the worker's office or home office. Lodging invoices are always required, regardless of the dollar amount.

4-9-3. **MEALS**

No meals will be reimbursed without an allowable overnight stay. Three meals will be reimbursed for each allowable overnight stay using current per diem rates. The meals include dinner for the evening of the overnight stay, followed by breakfast and lunch the following day. In the event that work continues past 6:00 pm on the second day, to avoid another overnight lodging expense dinner for the second day is allowable. No receipt is required for meal reimbursement. Exceptions are at the discretion of the technical reviewer.

4-9-4. MILEAGE

The Fund will reimburse round-trip mileage from office to job site per mile per vehicle, per trip, for standard and 4-wheel drive vehicles. The Fund will reimburse for a maximum of 400 miles one way or 800 miles round trip per vehicle trip. Mileage reimbursement will not be allowable for more than one vehicle per trip unless the use of multiple vehicles is justified.

4-9-5. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Out-of-state travel will be reimbursed, subject to the limits established by these guidelines, if the company does not have a Colorado office.

4-9-6. TRAVEL TIME

The Fund will reimburse for actual travel hours per employee, billed at the appropriate activity rate, for round-trip travel to and from the job site.

4-9-7. VEHICLE RENTAL

The Fund will not reimburse vehicle or company car rental charges, other than the standard reimbursement rate for mileage.

4-10-1. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE MARKUP

The Fund will reimburse markup at a maximum of 15% of certain pass-through costs. These are project-related costs paid directly by the prime contractor, including payments to subcontractors, lab fees, permits, onsite utilities, and equipment purchase and rental charges. Markup is only allowed on reimbursed pass-through charges.

4-10-2. MARKUP NOT ALLOWED

- (a) No markup is allowed on a company's own labor charges, or on rental charges a company charges for equipment it owns. Example: Prime Contractor "A" subcontracts drilling to Subcontractor "B". "B" cannot mark up its own labor, since profit is presumed to be built into the labor rates "B" charges. "A" may, however, mark up "B"'s entire invoice, including "B"'s labor charges.
- (b) If a pass-through charge is not reasonable, markup will only be allowed on the reasonable portion of that charge that is actually reimbursed.
- (c) If a pass-through charge is not allowable, no markup will be allowed.
- (d) No markup will be allowed on materials provided by the Applicant. The Applicant is entitled to reimbursement of his/her cost of these materials only.
- (e) No markup is allowed on normal business pass-through costs such as utilities (including telephone and fax charges), courier fees, or shipping or postage costs.
- (f) No markup is allowed on any travel charge, including lodging, per diems and mileage.
- (g) No markup is allowed on pass-through charges if the Applicant is acting as its own consultant and primary contractor.
- (h) No markup is allowed on materials or services provided by any company or person with whom the consultant has a financial interest.

Article 4, Part 11

4-11-1. EQUIPMENT REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT

The Fund will not reimburse the cost to repair or replace equipment that is damaged, lost, stolen, or destroyed due to negligence or vandalism, or that is covered by the Applicant's or consultant's insurance.

4-11-2. MATERIALS PROVIDED BY APPLICANT

Materials provided by the Applicant will be reimbursed at the Applicant's cost. No markup by Applicant or consultant is permitted.

4-11-3. PHOTOCOPYING

Photocopying charges will not be reimbursed.

4-11-4. RUSH CHARGES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Fund will not reimburse rush charges unless they (1) are justified by an environmental or public health and safety emergency, or (2) reduce overall remediation costs.

Article 4, Part 12

Waste transport disposal manifests are required to document proper waste transport disposal. When possible, consultants are encouraged to dispose of soil in bulk rather than in drums. Drums used must be reconditioned, not new.

Article 5, Part 1

5-1-1. COLORADO STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) By statute, Colorado's Petroleum Storage Tank Fund (the Fund) can reimburse to eligible Fund applicants costs related to personal injury or property damage suffered by third parties [§§8-20.5-206(1) & 8-20.5-303(1) CRS]. A \$25,000 deductible applies to third-party reimbursement awards, unless the applicant establishes Fund eligibility as a person bearing no responsibility for the release pursuant to §8-20.5-206(3) or §8-20.5-303(3) CRS Colorado law provides no further guidance regarding third-party liability claims against the Fund. The Colorado Attorney General's Office has determined that Colorado's Petroleum Storage Tank Committee (the Committee) has authority pursuant to §8-20.5-104(4) CRS to establish procedures and policies regarding third-party liability claims.
- (2) Colorado regulations state only that personal injury or property damage costs are not unallowable if suffered by third parties [7 CCR 1101-14, 8-4(a)(5)]. These costs are therefore presumed to be potentially allowable. The regulations provide no further guidance regarding third-party liability claims. The Colorado Attorney General's Office has further determined that nowhere in Colorado statute or regulation are there definitions of "bodily injury," "personal injury" or "property damage" that would apply to third-party liability claims against the Fund.

5-1-2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- (1) The Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) provides limited direction on incorporating third-party liability coverage into state funds used to satisfy EPA financial assurance requirement [40 CFR, Parts 280 & 281], including:
 - (a) "Bodily injury" and "property damage" shall have the meaning given to those terms by applicable state law, and may exclude from coverage those liabilities which, consistent with standard industry practice, are excluded from coverage in liability insurance policies.

- (b) Coverage is required only for compensation to third parties for injury and damage caused by accidental petroleum releases.
- (c) The EPA requirement for \$1 million in financial assurance applies to both third party liability and cleanup costs, but not \$1 million for each.
- (d) The \$1 million reimbursement limit must be exclusive of legal defense costs.

5-1-3. SUMMARY OF ARTICLE V CONTENTS

- (1) This Article V of the Guidelines addresses the following aspects of third-party liability claims against the Fund:
 - (a) Eligibility criteria
 - (b) Definition of "bodily/personal injury," "property damage" and "third party"
 - (c) Coordination of third-party liability and remediation reimbursement claims
 - (d) Supporting documentation requirements
 - (e) Role of the Attorney General's Office
 - (f) Potentially allowable costs
 - (g) Reasonable rates for allowable costs
 - (h) Unallowable costs

Article 5, Part 2

5-2-1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- (1) Eligibility criteria pertaining to applicants, releases, or sites established by statute, regulation or Committee policy apply to third-party claims in the same manner as to cleanup claims.
- (2) No initial claim pertaining to third-party liability will be considered potentially eligible for reimbursement until allowable third-party liability costs claimed exceed \$25,000, unless the applicant is eligible for Fund benefits as a person bearing no responsibility for the release pursuant to §§8-20.5-206(3) or 8-20.5-303(3) CRS

[Note: The \$25,000 deductible for third-party liability claims is separate and apart from the \$10,000 deductible applied to the reimbursement for cleanup costs.]

5-2-2. PERCENT REDUCTIONS

(1) Any percent reductions applied pursuant to §8-20.5-104(4)(d)(1) CRS apply to third-party liability reimbursement as well as to reimbursement for remediation costs.

5-2-3. REIMBURSEMENT DIRECTLY TO THIRD PARTY NOT PERMITTED

(1) No reimbursement will be made directly from the Fund to the third party.

Article 5, Part 3

5-3-1. BODILY/PERSONAL INJURY

(1) As used in this Article 5, bodily injury and personal injury are interchangeable terms. "Bodily/personal injury" means physical injury, sickness, disease or death proximately caused by an accidental release of a petroleum product. "Bodily/personal injury" does not include any loss or damage of an intangible nature, including pain and suffering, mental distress or anguish, or fear of future harm or illness. "Bodily/personal injury" does not include false arrest, detention, imprisonment; malicious prosecution; wrongful entry into or eviction of a person from a room, dwelling, premises or property that the person occupies; invasion of right of private occupancy; or other similar deprivation.

5-3-2. PROPERTY DAMAGE

- (1) "Property damage" means physical injury to, destruction of, or contamination of tangible property, real or personal, including resulting loss of, or interference with, use of that property. "Property damage" includes loss of use of tangible property that is not physically injured, destroyed, or contaminated, but has been permanently or temporarily evacuated, withdrawn from use, or rendered inaccessible as a proximate result of an accidental release of a petroleum product.
- (2) "Property damage" does not include the following:
 - (a) Cleanup costs
 - (b) Damage to property the applicant owns, rents, occupies, or uses
 - (c) Damage to property the applicant sells, gives away or abandons after discovery of the release
 - (d) Personal property in the applicant's care, custody or control
 - (e) Diminution of property value, whether actual, perceived or anticipated, except as provided for at §5-7-2(20). If diminution of property value is reimbursed, no remediation costs for the third party's property will be reimbursed for this occurrence.

5-3-3. THIRD PARTY

- (1) "Third party" means a person who has suffered bodily/personal injury or property damage as a proximate result of an accidental petroleum release. "Third party" does not include the following:
 - (a) Any employee or independent contractor of the Fund applicant whose bodily/personal injury or property damage is connected to the employment or contractual relationship.
 - (b) Any business associate of the Fund applicant (or a related enterprise of the Fund applicant), including without limitation a partner, shareholder, or joint venture of the Fund applicant or of a related enterprise, or any business entity or individual (or owners, agents or employees thereof) that owns, leases, operates, or manages the site, when the business relationship with the Fund applicant is related to the Fund applicant's ownership or operation of the petroleum business at the site.
 - (c) Any former tank owner/operator or permittee who may have been the owner/operator or permittee at the time when the release occurred, and any individual or corporation that leases the property where the release originated after the contamination is found.
 - (d) Recognizing there may be business arrangements of which the Committee was not aware when drafting §5-3-3(1), the Committee reserves the right to consider third-party status on a case-by-case basis.
- (2) If either the tank owner or tank operator is a potentially eligible Fund applicant for the subject release, neither can be a third party, regardless of which actually establishes Fund eligibility. Article 5, Part 4

5-4-1. WHEN TO FILE THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY CLAIM

(1) Third-party liability claims may be filed at any time following the discovery of a release above Colorado action levels.

5-4-2. WHEN REIMBURSEMENT FOR THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS WILL BE MADE

- (1) No reimbursement will be made for any third-party liability claims until all of the following have occurred:
 - (a) The Committee has determined that the applicant and the site are eligible for Fund benefits.
 - (b) The applicant has submitted a Corrective Action Plan and pertinent Technological and Economic Feasibility Summaries for the site.
 - (c) The OPS has approved the Corrective Action Plan.

5-4-3. LIMITATION ON REIMBURSEMENT

(1) Policy #13 of the Committee, which limits reimbursement to \$50,000 until there is an approved Corrective Action Plan for the site, applies to reimbursement of third-party liability expenses as well as remediation expenses. Costs submitted for reimbursement will be processed as submitted, regardless of whether they are for remediation or for third-party liability expenses. However, if net (after factoring in any percentage reductions imposed for regulatory non-compliance) total allowable remediation expenses (incurred and projected) plus third-party liability costs submitted for reimbursement exceed \$2 million, the Committee may, at its sole discretion, withhold from reimbursement that portion of third- party liability costs that cause projected total net allowable costs to exceed \$2 million if the Committee believes this would encourage continued remediation of the site. Any third-party liability costs so withheld from reimbursement would be potentially eligible for reimbursement, subject to the \$1 million statutory limitation, once the OPS issues a no-further-action (site closure) letter.

5-4-4. APPLICATION FORMS

(1) The standard original and supplemental reimbursement claim forms shall be used for both cleanup and third-party reimbursement claims.

5-4-5. SEPARATE APPLICATION REQUIRED

(1) Reimbursement applications pertaining to third-party liability should be submitted separately from claims pertaining to assessment or remediation costs.

Article 5, Part 5

5-5-1. PROOF OF PAYMENT

(1) Because only costs that the applicant has already paid are eligible for reimbursement, proof of payment pursuant to the regulations is required for all costs submitted on a third-party liability claim. For any costs paid directly by the third party and reimbursed to the third party by the applicant, proof of payment may be required from both the third party and the applicant.

5-5-2. PROOF OF DAMAGES

(1) All third-party costs must be sufficiently documented to demonstrate the amount of the damages and the basis for the damages. If the third-party claim is based upon a settlement agreement, jury verdict, or court order that does not itemize damages and costs, the applicant must provide supporting documentation to show that allowable costs were incurred whose total reached the amount paid to the third party. If the applicant cannot provide this documentation, only allowable costs which the applicant can adequately document will be reimbursed.

(2) With respect to third-party reimbursement claims submitted to the OPS before the Committee adopts this Article 5, the Committee may, at its sole discretion, approve full or partial reimbursement solely on the basis of a settlement agreement, jury verdict or final court order, and with no further documentation of actual damages and costs.

5-5-3. OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- (1) Any settlement agreement, jury verdict, or final court order must be provided with a third-party liability claim. These may be used as baselines from which the OPS will conduct eligibility, reasonableness and necessity reviews.
- (2) Any other documentation as requested by the OPS or the Committee, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Real and personal property appraisals
 - (b) Personal property repair bills
 - (c) Waiver and/or release agreements
 - (d) Subrogationagreements
 - (e) Tax forms
 - (f) Medical bills
 - (g) Financial statements
 - (h) Lease agreements
 - (i) Utility bills
 - (j) Pleadings and other documents of legal effect
 - (k) Insurance policies

5-5-4. INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

- (1) Either the OPS or the Committee may require physical examination by a property appraiser of the damaged property which is the subject of the reimbursement claim. Fund monies may be used to pay fees and expenses associated with the appraisal, and any such payment will not count against the \$1 million per-occurrence reimbursement limit.
- (2) Either the OPS or the Committee may require physical examination of any person whose bodily/personal injury is the subject of the reimbursement claim. Fund monies may be used to pay fees and expenses associated with the examination, and any such payment will not count against the \$1 million per-occurrence reimbursement limit.

5-6-1. ROLE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

- (1) The OPS will submit to the Colorado Attorney General's Office for review any settlement agreement, jury verdict, or final court order, together with any pertinent pleadings or other materials it has received.
- (2) Based on its review of the legal adequacy of such documentation, the Attorney General's Office will provide a legal reimbursement recommendation to the Committee. Consistent with its role as legal counsel to the Committee, the Attorney General's Office may provide additional advice concerning third-party liability issues to the Committee.
- (3) For aboveground storage tanks where reimbursement is sought, the Attorney General's Office must approve the settlement agreement in accordance with §8-20.5-303(1)(c) CRS.

Article 5, Part 7

5-7-1. ALLOWABLE COSTS - BODILY/PERSONAL INJURY

The following are potentially allowable third-party bodily/personal injury costs:

- (1) Compensatory damages for bodily/personal injury, including actual, necessary and reasonable medical expenses incurred by the third party and not covered by the third party's own insurance, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Emergency medical testing
 - (b) Doctor visits
 - (c) Diagnostic testing
 - (d) Hospitalization
 - (e) Prescriptions
 - (f) Funeral expenses

5-7-2. ALLOWABLE COSTS - PROPERTY DAMAGE

- (1) Compensatory damages for property damage, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Cost to repair and/or clean personal property, unless this exceeds replacement cost
 - (b) Replacement cost of personal property when cleaning or repair are not possible or would exceed the replacement cost

- (c) Real property restoration (not including cleanup costs or property improvements) or the fair market value of the damaged property, whichever is the lower cost
- (2) Loss of wages
- (3) Loss of business income from impacted commercial property resulting from loss of, or interference with, the use of that property
- (4) Loss of rental property income from impacted rental property resulting from loss of, or interference with, the use of that property
- (5) Drinking water supply:
 - (a) Cost to provide a permanent replacement or alternative potable drinking water supply, including developing a new drinking water supply well or hooking up to a readily available public water supply, whichever is the lower cost. (Temporary replacement/alternative drinking water supply is considered a cleanup cost, not third-party liability.)
 - (b) If neither option at (a) is practicable, the cost to install an in-home point-of-entry treatment system as directed by the OPS, and reasonable costs to operate said system until the OPS determines it is no longer needed. (No water bills following hook-up to a public supply will be reimbursed.)
 - (c) Cost to test water supply as directed by the OPS
- (6) Temporary relocation costs, only if the third party's dwelling or commercial property has been determined to be uninhabitable by the OPS. Although third parties still have access and short internal use of the impacted property during the evacuation/remediation state, they cannot receive reimbursement if they choose to relocate back into the affected structure. Allowable temporary relocation costs include:
- (7) Rent/lodging
- (8) Costs to move essential belongings to temporary quarters and to return them to the impacted dwelling at the conclusion of the temporary relocation (eithercost of private moving company or cost for rental of trailer or moving truck). Allowable moving costs do not include labor costs paid to the third party or a family member of the third party. If temporary relocation exceeds one month, moving charges for a second move are allowed to the extent they are offset by a cost savings in rent.
- (9) Work-related additional transportation costs necessitated by the move
- (10) Pet boarding costs necessitated by the move

- (11) Renter's insurance on relocation dwelling or business
- (12) Livestock relocation and boarding costs necessitated by the move
- (13) Additional and necessary transportation costs associated with getting children to and from their local school
- (14) Non-refundable charges for utility hookup at the temporary dwelling or business, excluding cable TV and internet access
- (15) Utility charges at temporary dwelling orbusiness
- (16) Other actual, necessary and reasonable residential or business relocation costs
- (17) Flat fee utility charges at impacted structure during the relocation period, plus additional costs to maintain minimum temperature to prevent pipes from freezing.
- (18) Flat fees for security system at impacted structure during relocation period, provided security system was installed prior to impact on structure.
- (19) Permanent relocation costs are allowable only if the impacted structure is either determined by the OPS to be permanently uninhabitable, or if the costs to restore the structure are greater than the fair market value of the contaminated property plus relocation costs. Allowable permanent relocation costs are limited to moving costs and do not include labor costs paid to the third party or a family member of the third party.
- (20) Diminution of property value, provided all of the following apply:
 - (a) The Fund applicant has made a good faith effort to remediate the third party's property but is not able to do so because of access limitations imposed by the third party;
 - (b) The fund applicant has notified the OPS of the applicant's unsuccessful effort to gain access to the third party's property and has provided to the OPS documented particulars of attempts made to gain this access;
 - (c) There is an approved Corrective Action Plan for the site.
 - (d) The diminution of property value amount is based on the estimated additional cost to remediate the third party's property if that property were cleaned up under a single corrective action plan for the entire impacted area, as demonstrated through a technical and economic feasibility analysis.
- (21) Any other bodily/personal injury or property damage cost determined tobe allowable, necessary and reasonable by the Committee.

5-8-1. ONLY ALLOWABLE COSTS WILL BE CONSIDERED REASONABLE

(1) No cost is reasonable unless it is also an allowable cost pursuant to statute, regulation, or Committee policy.

5-8-2. MILEAGE

(1) Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate established elsewhere by the RCGs.

5-8-3. PER DIEM

(1) Per diem charges will be reimbursed for the first 30 days only at the rate established elsewhere by the RCGs.

5-8-4. LODGING

(1) Lodging charges will be reimbursed for the first 30 days only at the rate established elsewhere by the RCGs. After 30 days, lodging will be reimbursed for rent billed monthly at a long-term motel, apartment/condominium/townhouse or house. Reimbursement for lodging will not exceed what is typically charged in the area for a dwelling similar to the impacted dwelling.

5-8-5. OTHER

(1) For activities whose reasonable rate is not addressed in the RCGs, actual costs will be reimbursed provided the amount is one typically expected for the particular activity.

Article 5, Part 9

5-9-1. UNALLOWABLE COSTS

The following costs are not allowable for reimbursement:

- (1) Bodily/personal injury or property damage in excess of actual, necessary and verifiable costs
- (2) Costs otherwise insured
- (3) Governmental, civil or criminal fines or penalties
- (4) Punitive damages, exemplary damages, multiple compensatory damages, administrative or criminal fines, or penalties imposed upon the applicant
- (5) Costs considered to be part of the corrective action process, including temporary provision of potable drinking water supply for domestic consumption and off-site rents for placement and/or operation of remediation equipment or recovery wells

- (6) Costs for subjective or non-physically manifested damage components and indirect or intangible damages, including, but not limited to: pain and suffering, mental distress, loss of consortium and/or services, psychological injuries, hedonic damages, inconvenience, fear of future harm or illness, stress of anticipated or actual harm or illness, medical monitoring in the absence of actual harm or illness, loss of goodwill
- (7) Property taxes at impacted structure
- (8) Long-distance telephone charges
- (9) The following relocation costs:
 - (a) Refundable deposits
 - (b) Fees for cable television or internet access
 - (c) Homeowner's or renter's insurance for the impacted structure
- (10) Damages caused by third party's failure to mitigate, including, but not limited to, failure to provide site access for corrective action
- (11) Actual, perceived or anticipated diminution of property value for impacted property that has been remediated pursuant to the requirements of the OPS
- (12) Attorney's fees, expert witness fees, and other legal costs
- (13) Interest
- (14) Future lost earnings caused by bodily/personal injury or death
- (15) Third party's consultant or other representative oversight costs not necessary to the corrective action process
- (16) Any obligation for which the applicant can be held liable under workers compensation, unemployment compensation, disability benefits, or similar law protecting applicant's employees
- (17) Any liability assumed by the applicant under any contract or agreement, if the liability would not exist without the contract or agreement
- (18) At the Committee's sole discretion, claims for reimbursement relating to a tank owned or operated by a person who has been convicted of a violation of any law or rule that relates to the installation, operation, or management of petroleum storage tanks
- (19) At the Committee's sole discretion, corrective action costs resulting from negligence or misconduct on the part of the applicant or the third party

- (20) Costs of making improvements to the impacted property beyond those required to restore it to its pre-impact condition
- (21) Costs, including those associated with contamination assessment performed for any purpose, where no petroleum corrective action is required by OPS
- (22) Costs of corrective action taken in response to the release of an ineligible substance
- (23) Any costs identified as unallowable or ineligible for reimbursement in Colorado law, OPS regulation or Committee policy
- (24) Costs in excess of those considered reasonable by the Committee
- (25) Costs determined to be unnecessary by the Committee